



Neighborhoods - The Heart of Reading -

OND Leadership Team Neighborhood Organizations Activity List September 8th, 2008

The Mayor is holding his fourth Neighborhood Forum on Tuesday September 9th at 7:00pm at the Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The Church is located at the corner of Lackawanna and Snyder streets. The Mayor will be discussing the City's 2009 plan of action.

Regularly Scheduled Neighborhood Meetings

- **6th and Amity** will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 8th at 6:30 at the 6th and Amity Playground field house. The group will discuss their upcoming Halloween party.
- **District 11** will hold the Mayor's fourth Neighborhood Forum on Tuesday September 9th at 7:00pm at the Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Located at the Corner of Lackawanna and Snyder streets.
- **Southeast People's Voice** will hold a special event with Neighborhood housing Services(NHS) on Thursday September 11th at 5:30 at the corner of Cotton and Maple Streets. Stop by for information on home ownership, home repair loans and neighborhood initiatives. More information below under "**Important Meetings**".

Updates from Neighborhood Meetings

- **Reading Elderly Crime Watch** held their regular monthly meeting on September 3rd. Common building issues was discussed.
- **Glenside** did not hold a meeting this month. The group plans to have an October meeting. Contact OND for information.

Important Meetings

- **NHS** is holding a “Neighborhood Night on Thursday September 11th at 5:30 at the corner of Cotton and Maple streets. Stop by for information on homeownership, repair loans and neighborhood building initiatives. Contact Crystal Edwards at 610-372-8433 for more information.
- **The Berks County Tax Claim Bureau** will be holding a Tax Sale on Wednesday September 24th at 9:30. The sale will take place at the Berks County Service Center 2nd floor Auditorium. 633 Court Street in Reading.
- See <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/sheriff/> for details on the next Sheriff’s sale. (CIE021508)
- The next Council of Neighborhoods meeting will Tuesday September 16th at 6:30 at the Goggle Works (JEL082508)
- **City Council** addresses legislation at their regular business meetings which are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers. Council holds one Work Session on the third Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Penn Room to discuss specific topics and issues. These meetings are televised on the BCTV MAC Channel—Channel 99. All meetings are open to the public

Neighborhood Activities

- **The UNO neighborhood group** held a community picnic on July 15th. The picnic had a great crowd and plenty of refreshments.
- **The 1st Ward Concerned Citizens N.O** and other residents have completed the Bingaman Street Triangle project. The effort improves the appearance of the Bingaman Street Bridge as one crosses the bridge into Reading. This project included many partners from the community including Berks Packing Company. Funding included a grant through the Mayor’s Neighborhood Matching Grant program. (JEL07038)
- **Reading Beautification, Inc.** in partnership with OND has begun its 2008 search for volunteer groups to assist in anti-litter and anti-graffiti efforts. (CIE011808)

City Activities

- **Alvernia College** will hold a Prospective Foster Parent information meeting on Wednesday September 10th at 6:00pm. The meeting will take place at the Upland Center Community Room at 540 Upland Avenue.
- **OND** has just completed its second phase of the “Little Acts of Love” program. Over 40 youth from the Zion UCC Church in Hamburg came to help. The group also brought along a carpenter who worked with several home owners to repair and build new rear fences.
- **OND** has just completed its first phase of “Little Acts of Love” The program is designed to improve citizen’s quality of life by improving neighborhoods. OND teamed up with project “Boot Camp” to help restore the exterior of homes in the front street area. Over 80 youth from all across the country participated, some as far as California.
- **NHS and the Group Work Camps foundation** teamed up on June 23rd-27th 2008 to help restore homes all across the city. NHS and Group Work Camps completed over 40 homes. (JEL070708)

Headlines of Interest

- The proposed \$2.8 billion RiverView development on Reading's south side likely would proceed in small parts rather than as one huge project, city officials said Tuesday.(R.E 8.20.08)
- **Giannesca Development Group** the Baltimore-based development group has increased the scope of the Riverview project. Originally planned as a \$1 billion development project will increase \$1.6-\$1.8 billion to a \$2.8 billion dollar project. The development will cover 80.4 acres along the Schuylkill River from Reading Area Community College south to the area around the Canal Street Pub and Restaurant at 535 Canal Street. The new proposed plan will include a sport and entertainment complex and possibly an indoor water park. The Riverview development would generate around \$58.6 million in annual taxes for Reading (R.E 6-10-08/ JEL 6.12.08)
- **Reading, PA is listed on Forbes.com as one of the “[Top 10 Sizzling Housing Markets](#)” in the Nation.** (CIE031408)

Training Opportunities

- There has been no firm date established for the next Citizen’s Police Academy, but we are looking for the next ten citizen cadets. Contact the OND office if you can participate. . (CWC081507)
- The new LightsON and neighborhood lighting programs have been initiated by OND in the UNO and Community Hope neighborhood

organizations' areas. The audit will be conducted by staff from OND and residents of the neighborhoods. A training program will instruct the residents on the method to assess their neighborhoods. The LightsON Program will supply free compact fluorescent bulbs to residents who agree to put them into their porch lights and agree to turn them on each night. The objective is to improve neighborhood lighting in an attempt to reduce crime. Contact the OND office if you would like to have the program in your neighborhood. (CWC020708)

Projects

- **OND has initiated its "Numbering" program.** This program is designed to help emergency personnel by placing house numbers on the rear of homes. OND started this program with help from project "Boot Camp". OND plans to use this program throughout the city this summer.(JEL070708)
- **OND has initiated its "Summer Mural" program.** Local youth from the city will be displaying their creativeness with over half a dozens murals scheduled for the summer.(JEL070708)
- **OND has finished its "Minute Guides"** and is in the process of having them in your local library. "Minute guides" are short guides that help citizens with common issues that we face in our city. Such as "How to deal with graffiti in your neighborhood". These guides should be available shortly. Versions in Spanish will also be available. (JEL070308)
- **OND** is researching ways to aid entrepreneurs in small business development and has found multiple tools that could potentially help average City residents in creating a small business including bilingual seminars and workshops. We will continue to explore those resources and information will be presented at a later time. (CIE032408)
- **OND** is conferring with the Police and Fire departments in an effort to develop an important safety project that would benefit city residents in both emergency and non-emergency situations. It calls for getting residents to post address numbers on the alley side of houses in the city. (CWC031408)
- **Neighborhood Housing Services of Reading (NHS)** has three home improvement programs available to City homeowners. For more

information and/or to obtain an application contact our office or NHS directly at (610)372-8433. (LCT112907)

- A complete copy of all city codes is available at the City of Reading website – www.readingpa.gov. (CWC081507)

OND on the City of Reading Website <http://www.readingpa.gov/ond.asp>

The Office of Neighborhood Development has now been added as a link on the city website. (CIE082407)